

First Sunday of Lent



the good news is..

so good, it catches
us by surprise

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804

662.842.5681

www.firstprestupelo.org

Morning Worship Service

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.”
- ISAIAH 25:6

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Solemn Melody

HENRY WALFORD DAVIES

INTROIT

For the Beauty of the Earth

ARR. JOHN RUTTER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

manna in the desert,

water turned into wine,

love after loss,

forgiveness after pain.

The good news of the gospel is:

release for the captive,

hope for the hopeless,

mourning turned to dancing,

and strangers turned to friends.

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and steadfast God,
As we begin this Lenten journey,
root us in Your steadfast love.
When we trust what is scarce,
teach us to rely on Your abundance.
When Your kingdom seems small and hidden,
give us patience to wait for its growth.
Turn our emptiness into grace,
and lead us from fear into the joy of Your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Sometimes a Light Surprises
(see insert on Page 8)

LANCASHIRE

CALL TO CONFESSION

You may have heard, “All is fair in love and war,”
or “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”
But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.”
God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
God says, “Turn the other cheek.”
God’s mercy catches us by surprise.
So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again.
Friends, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then You say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be Yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into Your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

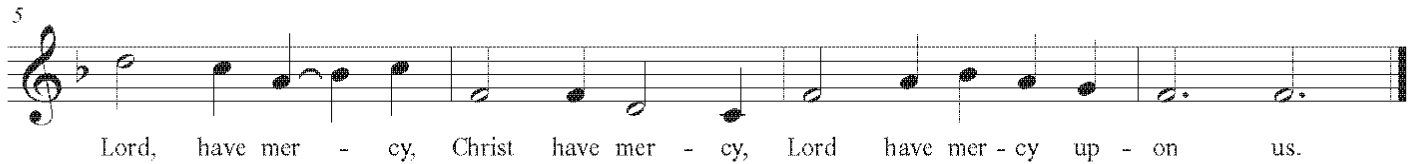
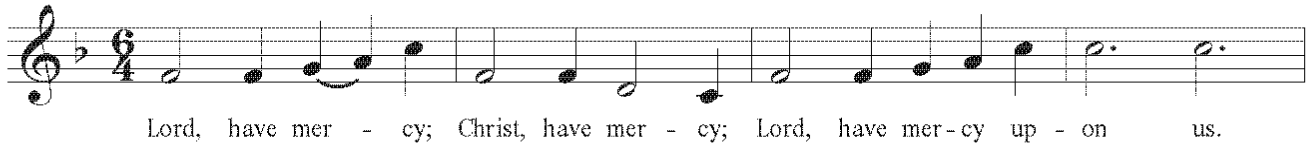
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be: of course, of course, of course. This is the good news of the gospel. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*RESPONSE NO. 579

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 36

Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in their hearts;
there is no fear of God
before their eyes.

For they flatter themselves in their own eyes
that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
The words of their mouths are mischief and deceit;

they have ceased to act wisely and do good.

They plot mischief while on their beds;
they are set on a way that is not good;
they do not reject evil.

**Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.**

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;
Your judgments are like the great deep;
You save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

They feast on the abundance of Your house,
and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

**For with You is the fountain of life;
in Your light we see light.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

OLD TESTAMENT READING	Isaiah 25:6-9	PEW BIBLE, PG. 652
ANTHEM	<i>Restore My Joy</i>	CINDY BERRY
GOSPEL READING	John 2:1-11	PEW BIBLE, PG. 93
SERMON	Surprise!	REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as LORD and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, LORD Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our LORD.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

LORD, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

O Lord Most Holy

CÉSAR FRANCK

*DOXOLOGY NO. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for Your glory and kingdom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise
(see insert on page 9)

ABERYSTWYTH

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

JEAN-JOSEPH MOURET

*BENEDICTION



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

and to love kindness and to walk
humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Responding to Christ's call to ministries of
compassion for the world's most vulnerable.



HOPE RESTORATION SOUTH SUDAN

PDS12/13/26-26-101



Text **OGHS** to **91999** to support these vital ministries, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.



Sometimes a Light Surprises

LANCASHIRE

William Cowper, 1779

Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

Some-times a light sur - pris - es be - liev - ers while they sing; it
In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue the
The vine, nor fig tree nei - ther their won - ted fruit should bear; Tho'

5
is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in His wings; when
theme of God's sal - va - tion, and find it ev - er new; set
all the fields should wi - ther, nor flocks, nor herds be there; yet

9
com - forts are de - clin - ing He grants the soul a - gain — a
free from pre - sent sor - row we cheer - ful - ly can say, — e'en
God the same a - bid - ing, His praise shall tune my voice. — for

13
seas - on of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
let th'un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may.
while in Him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ABERYSTWYTH

Christopher Wordsworth, 1862

Joseph Parry, 1879



Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to you we raise.
Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro - phet, Priest, and King su - preme,
Grant us grace to see You Lord, mir - rored in Your ho - ly Word.

5
man - i - fest - ed by the star to the Ma - gi from a - far,
and at Ca - na, wed - ding guest in your God - head man - i - fest;
May our lives and all we do im - i - tate and hon - nor You

9
branch of ro - yal Dav - id's stem, in your birth at Beth - le - hem.
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine.
that we all like You may be at your great e - pi - pha - ny

13
An - thems be to You ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to You ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
and may praise You, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston

College Students: Afton Gable, Maggie Gibens, Charlie Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 67 11:00 A.M: 115

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship or email him at pastor@firstprestupelo.org.

Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.

Ritual of friendship — Members and Visitors: Please sign the attendance register and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annette Thornton on behalf of her family.

All children are welcome in worship! Children's activity bags and special bulletins are available for all ages and are located with our regular worship bulletins in the Narthex. Nursery care is available for newborns through four-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time. After the 11:00 Children's Sermon, preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend "Wee Kirk." This is a time of fun childcare with age-appropriate songs and games.

Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilder's during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service every 2nd and 4th Sunday. We meet **after the children's sermon** for a fun and engaging time of learning about the structure of our church service, with activities to help kids grow in their understanding and participation in worship. If your child attends, you can pick them up in the gym area after the service.

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search firstprestupelo. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Lori Dickerson

11:00: Trey Leeke

Greeters: 9:00: Amanda Montgomery and Kristi Hillhouse

11:00: Anne Marie & Minor Littrell and Carolyn & Bob Kelly

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, February 23 at 11:00 A.M. We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study Acts 4.

For March 1, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 25:35-40, Psalm 116:1-9, and Isaiah 58:6-10.**



Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program using the QR Code provided, using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. This week the cost is \$7 per person, and we will enjoy Beef Meatloaf, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Collard Greens, Cheesy Potato Casserole, Homestyle Green Beans, Pasta Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be *Help* by John Brock. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, February 25.**

We would like to thank **Debra Robison** for selecting and gifting this morning's **anthem** to the choir.

Today at 1:00 P.M., we will celebrate the **Billy Roberts/Erin Stubbs Wedding Shower.** Please come and show love and appreciation to this couple as they prepare to join together as one.

The Cuba Mission Team appreciates the gifts and medicine the congregation has provided for Cuba. They would like everyone to suspend bringing more until we know a new date for their trip sometime in the fall. Thank you again for the support.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of **Annette Thornton**, who passed away on January 30, **Jack Price**, who passed away on February 12, and **Lanta Craig**, who passed away on December 1. Please keep the families in your prayers.



First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo

Spring Flower Bulb Drive

To God be the glory for the gift of Spring and the beautiful colors that it brings.

If you would like to make a gift to the bulb fund with an honorarium or memorial in the name of a loved one, please send your donation with the name and designation to the church office by Thursday, March 26.

Minimum of \$20 for each name.

WEEKLY

FPC Schedule

SUNDAY

One Great Hour
of Sharing

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship
1:00 P.M. Billy Roberts/Erin Stubbs Wedding Shower
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts
5:30 P.M. Confirmation
5:30 P.M. Youth

2/22

MONDAY

11:00 A.M. Bible Study
2:30 P.M. CASA

2/23

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

2/24

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

2/25

THURSDAY

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
2:30 P.M. CASA

2/26

FRIDAY

12:00 P.M. AA
2:30 P.M. CASA

2/27

SATURDAY

2/28

Notes

Community Lenten Services

12:00PM | TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

Word of Hope

Community Lenten Lunches

Let us gather around the table of God's grace this Lenten season on Thursdays at noon for a light lunch and devotion.

2/19 - First Presbyterian Church
2/26 -
3/05 - St. Luke United Methodist
3/12 - St. James Catholic Church
3/19 - All Saints' Episcopal Church
3/26 - First United Methodist

Suggested donation to help cover lunch and support the Hunger Coalition.



HONORING

Erin Stubbs & Billy Roberts

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
1:00-2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL

*Registered at Reed's,
Jody's, and Amazon*

THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:

Learn the Word of God in worship and study.
Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.
Lead others to the Word of God in love.

THE SESSION

Rev. John Brock, Moderator
Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

CLASS OF 2026

Glen Davidson, Sr.
Jim Fisher
Ben Hunter
Bob Lence
Corey Littrell
Helen Monts
Aubre Wells

CLASS OF 2027

Heather Crotwell
Amanda Davis
Beth Anne Ellzey
Mac Godwin
Mary Margaret Gratz
Debra Robison
Liz Rose

CLASS OF 2028

Jim Bruce
Tatum Collins
Lee Herman
Trey Phyfer
Buddy Stubbs
Virginia Toliver
Kathy Wallace

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Brock, Pastor
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer
Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian
MJ Whitt, Church Secretary
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary
Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist
Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist
Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

